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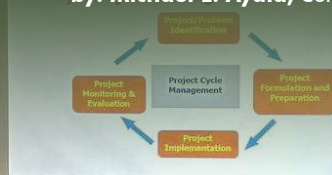
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EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: USEP'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Pro by: Michael L. Ayala, College of Applied Economics



Dr. Roberto S. Deluna, Jr. Dean of CAEC, delivers a lecture on Crafting Logical Frameworks and Theories of Change at DNSC's project management workshop.



DNSC's Project Management workshop participants share ideas during break-out sessions facilitated by Mr. Ronald D. Estrada.

Effective project management is essential for reaching goals across various industry sectors. Recognizing this vital role, the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), through its College of Applied Economics and the Socio-Economic Research and Data Analytics Center (SERDAC) Mindanao, led by Dr. Roberto S. Deluna, Jr., Dean of CAEC, held a lecture series workshop on project design, monitoring, and evaluation on April 11, 2024, at Davao del Norte State College in Panabo City. The activity focused on crafting logical frameworks and theories of change for community development projects and initiatives.

The workshop included extensive lectures that provided participants with the knowledge and skills required for effective community project management. By equipping participants with the ability to develop, monitor, and evaluate community development initiatives, the lecture series aligns closely with USEP's vision to become a "premier research university transforming communities in the ASEAN and beyond."

The topics covered encompass the fundamentals of project design, monitoring and evaluation, crafting logical frameworks,

and developing theories of change distinctive to community extension initiatives. Participants learned about various data gathering and analysis techniques for monitoring and evaluating. The activity demonstrated using this knowledge to make sensible decisions and improve project performance. This comprehensive approach enabled participants to manage their projects effectively, ensuring they meet project objectives and outcomes while contributing significantly to the region's sustainable development efforts.

USEP's lecture series on project design, monitoring, and evaluation exemplifies the university's dedication to empowering individuals and promoting community sustainability. By providing participants with project management knowledge and skills, they could play an important role in promoting positive change in their communities. This ensures that community development projects and initiatives are well-designed, effectively managed, and bring long-term benefits to their specific communities. This effort demonstrates USEP's commitment to its vision and goal, paving the way for a brighter and more sustainable future for this region and beyond.



Dr. Rupert Deluna and the USEP CAEC-SERDAC Mindanao facilitators foster collaboration and development in project management initiatives with DNSC workshop participants.

HANDS-ON TRAINING IN FOOD PROCESSING AND MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

by: **Fernando V. Magdato, Jr. and Ruel F. Tuyogon,**
College of Agriculture and Related Sciences



Participants during the hands-on training on oyster mushroom production present their individual output.



The participants set up the mixed media for the spawn.



Dr. Joyce C. Limbaga poses with the participants and their food processing products.

BACASIFIA Women's Group experienced hands-on food processing training under Dr. Joyce C. Limabaga on June 7, 2024, which provided essential skills for preserving and adding value to their agricultural produce. Three essential products were selected based on the model farm's output to ensure the training directly met their needs. The chosen products—vegetable pickling, chicken sausage production, and salted egg making—provided the women with diverse food processing techniques. The training also considered product perishability and potential market demand to ensure that the selected products offered economic viability and reduced food spoilage.

The interactive session facilitated knowledge retention and skill development, with participants engaging in demonstrations and gaining practical experience in each process. From pickling vegetables using various methods to crafting delicious chicken sausages and mastering salted egg production, the women honed their skills under the guidance of qualified trainers. This hands-on approach instilled confidence and equipped them to replicate these processes independently.

Following the informative lecture, Prof. Edwin Solilap conducted a practical and engaging demonstration. The session covered the bagging process, spawning techniques, the importance of selecting the right substrate mixture, and proper sterilization procedures. This hands-on experience allowed participants to solidify their understanding and gain the practical skills needed for successful oyster mushroom cultivation.

CAS FORGES POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIP WITH DAVAO CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

by: **Chelsea Joyce D. Zamayla and Josephine May Grace A. Famoso,**
College of Arts and Sciences

The Mathematics and Statistics faculty led by Dr. Eveyth P. Deligero, Dean of Advanced Studies, Dr. Stephanie O. Espinola, program leader of the Extension Program Capability Building on Mathematics and Statistics, and project leaders and members Assoc. Prof. Fe F. Largo, Dr. Ariel C. Pedrano, Asst. Prof. Aries P. Valeriano, Dr. Ricky F. Rulete, Asst. Prof. Victor Paul J. dela Cruz, Assoc. Prof. Percival B. Cabang, Asst. Prof. Eva D. Benacer, and Assoc. Prof. Remegia L. Ganot and CAS Extension Coordinator, Asst. Prof. Josephine May Grace A. Famoso visited the Davao City National High School (DCNHS) last March 8, 2024, to discuss a possible partnership with the latter. Ms. Biengil Lecias, Assistant Principal of DCNHS, warmly welcomed the USEP extensionists.



The Mathematics and Statistics Department and CAS Extension Program Team establishes a valuable partnership with DCNHS, represented by Assistant Principal Biengil Lecias and Dr. Sherwin Fortugaliza.

Before the visit, several activities were conducted to prepare for the partnership. The first activity involved assessing the needs of students, professionals, and teachers in mathematics and statistics. The second activity focused on developing a questionnaire, and the last activity involved analyzing the results. These activities aimed to understand the specific mathematical and statistical methods and procedures the trainees wanted to learn about, identify the challenging learning competencies in high school mathematics, and pinpoint the least effective learning modules in 'Mathematics in the Modern World,' a college course. Additionally, the activities aimed to collect relevant topics in statistics essential for designing training programs and evaluating teachers' knowledge of technological content in mathematics and statistics.

This project sought to gain a detailed assessment of the needs of students and teachers in mathematics and statistics. It included a thorough evaluation of their requirements for tutorials, consultations, and training in statistical tools like R software. The conversations with the partner school resulted in a fruitful meeting where positive results were obtained.

During the successful meeting, both parties agreed on the project's timeline, carefully reviewed



The faculty members of the Mathematics and Statistics Department of the College of Arts and Sciences visit Davao City National High School.

and finalized the Memorandum of Agreement, and ensured that all aspects of the collaboration were clearly understood and accepted. This partnership between USEP and DCNHS aims to bridge gaps, share knowledge, and cultivate a supportive network that will foster growth. Dr. Sherwin Fortugaliza suggested a 1–2-day face-to-face meeting to evaluate the potential impact of the collaboration. He also hoped this partnership would last at least two years and potentially beyond.

TECHNICAL EVALUATION AND TRAINING SESSION ON RESORT OPERATIONS FOR THE TATAG IP STUDENTS TOURISM CENTER

by: **Suzette C. Quico**, College of Business Administration

The tourism industry plays a significant role in the economic development of communities, particularly in regions rich with natural beauty and cultural heritage. For Indigenous Peoples (IP), tourism offers a unique opportunity to share their heritage while fostering economic independence. In this context, the "Technical Evaluation and Training Session on Resort Operations" for the Tatag IP Students Tourism Center is a promising initiative to empower the community with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage and operate a thriving resort.

The College of Business Administration - Hospitality Management Program at the University of Southeastern Philippines recently conducted a comprehensive technical evaluation and training session on resort operations for the Tatag IP Students Tourism Center on January 16-17, 2024. This initiative aimed to enhance the skills of the tourism staff in Barangay Sto. Niño, Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

Under the guidance of the program's esteemed faculty members led by Dr. Elisa E. Braganza, the training delivered an impeccable and enjoyable learning experience. As the team leader, Dr. Braganza shared her extensive expertise in the Food and Beverage Services Area. Dr. Suzette C. Quico imparted frontline and reception services, while Dr.



Dr. Nowa Cyrhyl C. Balderas talks about menu planning and food costing.



Dr. Joy Soriano demonstrates the bed-making process under Housekeeping Services.

Ma. Joy G. Soriano delved into housekeeping services. Finally, Dr. Xennie Y. Tupas and Dr. Nowa Cyrhyl C. Balderas provided insights on food preparation, work method design, and menu planning, including food costing.

The USEP Extension Division and the College of Business Administration (CBA) eagerly anticipate fostering a positive and enduring relationship with this flourishing tourism destination. This collaborative effort is a project managed by the 56th Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army. The College is proud to contribute to the development of the Tatag IP Students Tourism Center, and this endeavor marks another significant step towards mutual growth and success.

"Technical Evaluation and Training Session on Resort Operations" for the Tatag IP Students Tourism Center is a testament to the power of education and technical support in transforming community-based tourism ventures. By equipping the Tatag IP community with the necessary skills and knowledge, the initiative has paved the way for sustainable economic development while preserving and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Tatag IP people. As the resort continues to grow and thrive, it will undoubtedly serve as an inspiration for similar communities seeking to harness the benefits of tourism in a sustainable and culturally respectful manner.



Dr. Suzette C. Quico, CBA Extension Head, discusses the Frontline and Services Area with Tatag IP students.



Facilitators, in the back row, end the training sessions with the Officer-in-Charge of Tatag IP Student Tourism Center and the participants.

BRIDGING TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY: USEP EMPOWERS DAVAO FARMERS WITH DIGITAL FARMING SKILLS

by: **Roel S. Sayson**, College of Development Management

DAVAO CITY – The College of Development Management (CDM) at the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) Minal Campus showcased its commitment to community development through the Digital Agriculture Advocacy for Farmers program. This impactful event occurred on May 27, 2024, at the USEP Minal campus and was a collaborative effort with the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center XI (ATI-RTC XI).

The event brought together 20 farmers from various associations, equipping them with essential skills in digital farming. Ms. Assel Mapayo, Information Officer II at ATI-RTC XI, spearheaded the lecture series and hands-on training sessions. Participants learned to navigate smartphones, install agricultural applications, and leverage social media for marketing their produce. The training emphasized the importance of avoiding online scams, ensuring farmers can utilize digital tools productively and safely.

Minda Aurora Binevides, a 70-year-old chairperson of the Fair-Trade Center-Tugbok Progressive Coconut Multipurpose Cooperative, expressed her amazement at the accessibility of digital farming tools. "From planting to harvesting, everything is flexible with digital farming nowadays," she remarked. Binevides focuses on cultivating coconut, cacao, durian, mangosteen, and



Dr. Cherry Ann P. Cutad highlights the importance of social marketing and mobilization in modern farming.



Farmer participants install essential mobile applications during the Digital Agriculture Advocacy Training workshop.



Ms. Assel Mapayo, Information Officer II at ATI-RTC XI, gives lecture on the Digital Farming Program of the Agriculture Training Institute

other fruit-bearing trees and sees digitalization as a way to enhance her farming practices.

The activity leader, Dr. Cherry Ann P. Cutad, highlighted the significance of social marketing and mobilization in modern farming. She praised the participants for embracing digital challenges and encouraged them to be examples for the younger generation. The activity was part of the MS Development Communication students' curriculum, specifically under the MSDC-2 Communication, Social Marketing, and Mobilization subject, blending academic learning with practical community impact.

The participants expressed a keen interest in future training topics, including advanced digital farming techniques, processing fruits like rambutan, and further utilization of mobile applications for farming. Their enthusiasm highlights a growing recognition of the potential of digital tools to transform traditional farming practices.

The Digital Agriculture Advocacy for Farmers program exemplifies USEP-CDM's dedication to uplifting local farming communities through education and technology. The college fosters sustainable development and economic growth in Davao's agricultural sector by bridging the gap between traditional practices and modern innovations.

USEP CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER (CEC) FACILITATES GPPB-TSO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION COURSES: BASIC AND INTERMEDIATE LEVELS FOR THE 1ST AND 2ND QUARTERS OF 2024

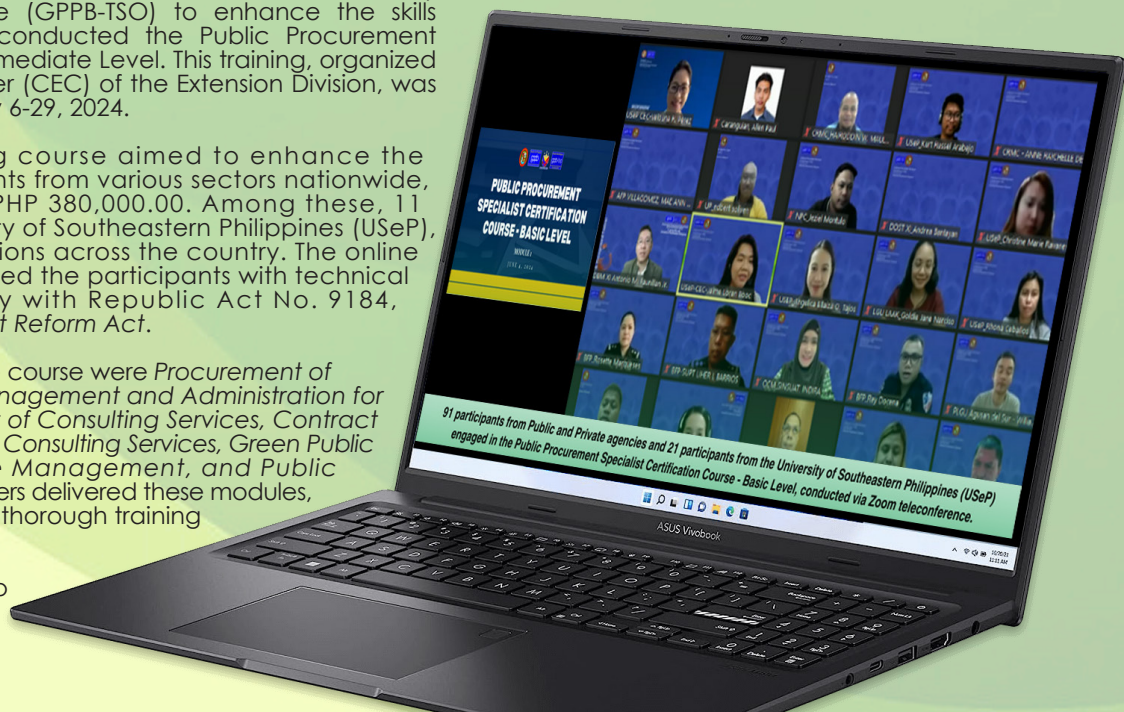
by: Velouna R. Perez and Jaime Loren T. Booc, Continuing Education Center

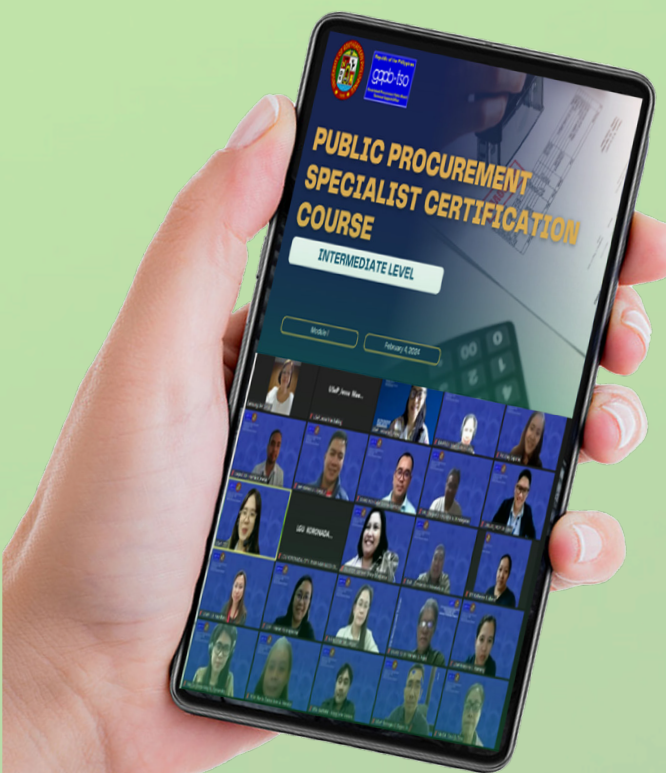
In a collaborative effort between the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) and the Government Procurement Policy Board-Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) to enhance the skills of government personnel, USEP conducted the Public Procurement Specialist Certification Course-Intermediate Level. This training, organized by the Continuing Education Center (CEC) of the Extension Division, was conducted via Zoom from February 6-29, 2024.

The month-long training course aimed to enhance the procurement skills of 51 participants from various sectors nationwide, generating a total revenue of PHP 380,000.00. Among these, 11 participants were from the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), while 40 represented different regions across the country. The online classes held twice a week equipped the participants with technical skills in eight modules that comply with Republic Act No. 9184, or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The modules covered in the course were Procurement of Infrastructure Projects, Contract Management and Administration for Infrastructure Projects, Procurement of Consulting Services, Contract Management and Administration for Consulting Services, Green Public Procurement, Public Expenditure Management, and Public Procurement Audit. Accredited trainers delivered these modules, ensuring that participants received thorough training that adheres to industry standards.

Continuing its commitment to advancing procurement expertise, USEP also facilitated the 5th Batch





of the Public Procurement Specialist Certification Course—Basic Level, which took place via Zoom Teleconference from June 4-27, 2024. Batch 5 of the PPSCC—Basic Level boasted 112 participants, the highest number of enrollees among all PPSCC—Basic Level training batches. Participants came from various private and public sectors nationwide, including agencies such as the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Department of Education (DepEd), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Commission on Audit (COA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the Provincial Governments of Agusan del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Dinagat Islands, and Laak. Additionally, state colleges and universities such as Davao de Oro State College (DDOSC), University of the Philippines (UP), Philippine Normal University (PNU), Western Philippines University (WPU), and Eastern Samar State University (ESSU) were well-represented in the training. This training generated a total revenue of PHP 682,500.00. Of the 112 participants, 21 were from the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), while the remaining 91 came from various agencies and institutions nationwide.

The modules included *Principles and Practices of Public Procurement*, *Legal and Administrative Environment of Philippine Public Procurement*, *Procurement Organization Framework*, *Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS)*, *Procurement Planning*, *Procurement of Goods and Services*, *Contract Management and Administration of Goods*, and *Ethics of Procurement*. These modules elucidate various policies and procedures related to procurement. Participants are equipped to identify processes in alignment with the guidelines provided by the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) as outlined in Republic Act No. 9184.

This training is designed to equip participants, including government employees, procurement officers, bidders, and other stakeholders, with essential skills in public and government procurement processes. As the premier training institution in Mindanao offering certification courses in procurement, USEP is set to launch additional training sessions later this year. This initiative will enable a new group of trainees to enhance their skills, thereby contributing to developing the procurement process in the Philippines.

USEP—COLLEGE OF INFORMATION AND COMPUTING EMPOWERS RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH DIGITAL TRAINING FOR BARANGAY DEVELOPMENT

by: Cheryl R. Amante, College of Information and Computing

Innovations in Information Technology (IT) and digital devices have led the world towards a new emerging paradigm of digital transformation, which presents strategy-oriented changes in infrastructure and processes in modern societies based on current information and communication technologies (ICT) (Pihir, 2018). Digital transformation in local governments refers to using technology to optimize government operations, making service delivery more effective, efficient, accessible, and convenient for citizens. Developing countries, like the Philippines, should be prepared with updated infrastructure, institutions, skills, and, most importantly, streamlined mentalities. Such redesign allows countries to use the new opportunities while avoiding the risk of disruptions (Schwab, 2018).

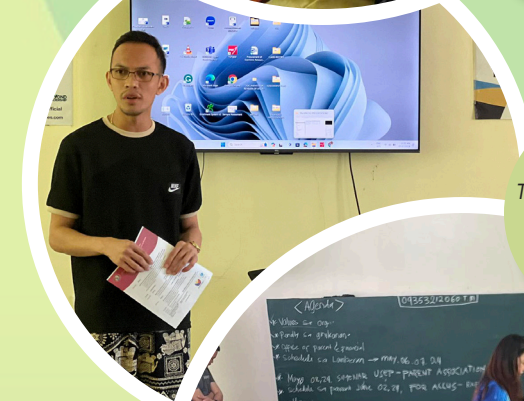
Living its Vision, Mission, and Goals, the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), through the College of Information and Computing's Research, Development, and Extension (RDE) units, conducted the "Digital Empowerment for Barangay Development in the Rural Areas: Building Awareness and Preparedness" training last May 17, 2024, at the KASILAK room of TATAG IP Foundation Incorporated located at Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

Dr. Ivy Kim Machica,
the CIC Dean, facilitates
the Collage of the Rose,
Thorns, and Buds
activity.

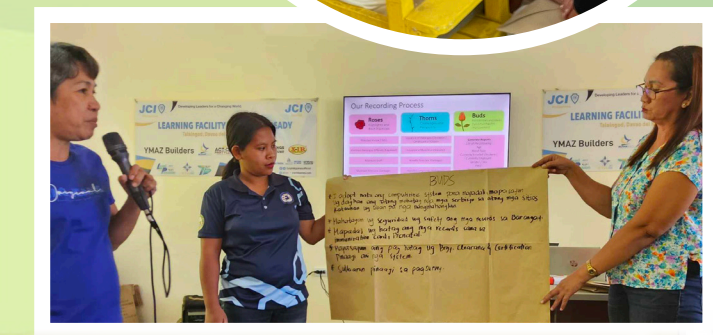




Dr. Roger C. Montepio, VP for Research, Development, and Extension, delivers words of inspiration to the participants



The CIC Faculty trainers in action during their topic discussion



USEP – College of Information and Computing empowers rural communities through digital training for Barangay development

We build dreams without limits

Anchored on the research study proposed by the College of Information and Computing (CIC) and now approved institutional research, this activity aimed to provide awareness and preparedness training to the smallest unit of the community, which is the barangay, particularly in the rural areas of the Davao Region. This ensures that the recipients understand the advantages of improving their transactions in the barangay with the help of information and communications technology (ICT) strategies.

The awareness training is designed to empower Local Government Units (LGUs) in rural areas to embrace digital transformation as a catalyst for positive change, driving economic development, improving governance, and enhancing the quality of life for rural residents.

The CIC team was able to achieve the objectives set for the training, such as identifying gaps, challenges, and specific areas where digitalization can enhance efficiency and effectiveness and understanding the existing technological infrastructure, resources, and constraints within the barangay through the Rose, Thorns, and Buds activity. In addition, the team was also able to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of what digitalization means in the context of local government units, including its benefits and challenges. The trainees are also introduced to the various digital tools and technologies that can streamline processes and improve efficiency within the barangay. The technology transfer adoption and transfer topics also emphasized the importance of digitalization in enhancing transparency, accountability, and service delivery in local governance.

The activity was also attended by the key officials of the university, specifically the Vice President of RDE, Dr. Roger C. Montepio, who also gave a motivational closing remark about the event. Dr. Karl Campos, the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Division (KTTD) Director, generously shared his insights and valuable experiences as a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairman, igniting the interests of the barangay officials to adopt digitalization initiatives of the barangay.

The training opened a new horizon to the rural community leaders and the way the local governance is done in these areas in a way that they verbally expressed through their presentation of their best practices and challenges experienced, particularly in the issuance of pertinent documents and demographic profiling. They mentioned their opportunities for improvement by adopting technology-driven solutions, such as implementing an information system that can help solve their manual processing problems.

The training ended with a closing message by Dr. Roger C. Montepio, Vice President for Research Development and Extension, thanking Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingud, and expressing his hopes to impart a positive impact on the social and economic aspects of the area in light of the many projects that USEP has established and partnered with other agencies like DOST.

With the joint efforts of the CIC team headed by Dr. Ivy Kim D. Machica, the College Dean, Assoc. Prof. Michael V. Machica, KTTD Deputy Director, Ms. Cheryl R. Amante, Extension Head, Ms. Vera Kim S. Tequin, MCIIIS Center Manager/ CIC Research Head, Mr. Hobert A. Abrigana, BSCS Program Head, and Asst. Prof. Gresiel E. Ferrando, BLIS Program Head/ QA Head, KTTD Director Dr. Karl Campos, USEP PAD team, and the partner communities of Barangay Palma Gil headed by Punong Barangay Pablo Tagnipes, alongside his barangay council members and staff, LTC Emmanuel P. Garcia INF (GSC) PA, Commanding Officer of 56th Infantry TATAG Battalion, 7ID, Philippine Army, and unit staff, the activity was considered a fulfillment not only with the USEP community as a whole but also in the hearts of the adaptors of technology.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION REACHES OUT TO MATIGSALUG INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

by: Wendelyn C. Bajador, College of Education

To bridge the gap in education and address the needs of the Matigsalug Indigenous People, the College of Education (CEd), through its Extension Unit, conducted an Initial Assessment with the tribal leaders from Mapantow, Marilog District, Davao City last March 9, 2024.

The event brought together Honorable Rodolfo Mande, Indigenous People and Muslim Representative (IPMR) Head, and some tribal leaders from Malikungkung, Gumitan, and Balete. During the discussion, these leaders highlighted the challenges faced by their community related to passive support for the literacy development of young children, limited school supplies, discontinued education due to early marriage, unsustainable livelihood for women, lack of alternative skills for farmers, and undocumented cultural practices.

In response to the expressed needs, some CEd faculty proposed solutions through (a) providing technical assistance and training for IP para-teachers and parents to develop proper intervention and mechanisms to support literacy development; (b) donating school supplies; (c) establishing negotiation with DepEd Alternative Learning System (ALS) teachers about teenage parents' desire to continue schooling; (d) training skills for entrepreneurship particularly beneficial for women's livelihood; (e) training skills on repairing motorcycles for farmers as it is their primary means of transporting crops; and (f) preserving their cultural practices through documentation.

The initial assessment proved valuable for establishing a collaborative relationship between the CEd and Matigsalug communities. By identifying the community's specific needs, CEd can tailor its extension program to provide targeted assistance.



One of the tribal leaders expresses the need for training for para-teachers, including the need for school supplies.



Hon. Rodolfo Mande joins the CEd faculty members in a collaborative effort, strengthening the partnership with the IP communities for future educational initiatives.

TREE-MENDOUSLY AMAZING EXPERIENCE: PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF SANITARY ENGINEERS USEP STUDENT CHAPTER LAUNCHES FIRST EVER EXTENSION ACTIVITY

by: Kristine Mae A. Serdeña and Marjanesse Armilla



Students from DRANHS plant mangrove seedlings at Brgy. Matina Aplaya, Davao City.

In a considerable effort to combat coastal degradation and foster environmental stewardship, the Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers—University of Southeastern Philippines Student Chapter (PSSE—USEP SC) embarked on its first-ever extension activity. The event, Coastal Wetland Restoration: Mangrove Planting and Monitoring Activity, was held at Brgy. Matina Aplaya, Davao City, marked a significant milestone for the organization. This initiative is set to boost ecological resilience and celebrate biodiversity by creating a vibrant mangrove ecosystem. Its goal is to nurture a sustainable environment by addressing solid waste and providing a safe sanctuary for varied marine

species. In addition to being an extension activity, this also serves as an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) and outreach program aimed at educating participants about the role of sanitary engineers in environmental conservation.

This landmark event was meticulously organized by students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Sanitary Engineering (BSSE) program at USeP with leadership from the PSSE - USeP SC's executive officers. Throughout the activity's design and implementation, they demonstrated commitment and dedication to applying academic knowledge to real-world environmental challenges. The initiative was guided by DYESABEL Philippines, Inc., a Youth-and-Sama-Bajau-led organization that co-creates inclusive and intersectional initiatives for the people, planet, and the Philippines.

The activity started with an engaging discussion led by one of the respondents, Sir Gibril Delara from Brgy. Matina Aplaya, shared valuable insights into the art of planting mangroves. Engr. Pherly Grace Bungao then warmly welcomed everyone with her opening remarks, setting the stage for our first speaker, Jan Marie S. Cirujano, a second-year BSSE student, who captivated the audience with her talk on "The Role of Sanitary Engineering in Coastal Wetland Restoration." Following her, Ms. Jann Florie Ortega, the Obrero Student Council General Secretary and second-year BSSE student, delivered an inspiring presentation on the Social Connection of Students and its importance, highlighting its crucial role in environmental activities and community engagement.

Throughout the event, the responders of Brgy. Matina Aplaya showcased their dedication by ensuring the safety of all participants. Their steadfast support fostered a sense of safety and comfort, maintaining a vigilant watch over every aspect of the activity. Because of the responders' presence, everyone was able to concentrate entirely on the essential tasks of planting mangroves and learning about environmental protection. This well-balanced combination of safety and excitement enhanced the event's overall success.

Broad Community Involvement

The initiative garnered strong support from the College of Engineering faculty at USeP, underscoring the institution's commitment to cultivating a culture

of sustainability among its students. Furthermore, the Obrero Student Council and students from the Geodetic Engineering program also lent their hands, showing the importance of teamwork across different fields to tackle environmental issues effectively. The extension activity also gained enthusiastic participation from various community stakeholders—students and teachers from Davao City National High School (DRANHS) and Sta. Ana National High School (Sta. Ana NHS) embodies a collaborative spirit that spans different educational levels.

Beyond the physical restoration efforts, the activity was a dynamic educational platform. Participants learned about the ecological importance of coastal wetlands, the threats these ecosystems face, and the pivotal role humans can play in their preservation. This knowledge is essential for fostering a new generation of environmentally conscious citizens who can advocate for and lead future conservation efforts. The activity fostered a sense of shared responsibility and collective action toward environmental preservation by bringing together students, teachers, faculty members, and residents.

A Vision for the Future: The First of Many Transformative Initiatives

The successful implementation of this activity by the Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers – USeP Student Chapter fulfills the goals of the Sanitary Engineering Program and the College. It sets a precedent for future endeavors, each building on the successes that last. The Coastal Wetland Restoration: Mangrove Planting and Monitoring Activity is a testament to the commitment of USeP's Sanitary Engineering students to environmental stewardship. As the students return to their academic pursuits, they carry invaluable experiences and a renewed commitment to protecting our planet's vital ecosystems. The coastal wetland restoration in Brgy. Matina Aplaya is more than just one event; it serves as a spark for continuing environmental awareness and action. This marks an indispensable role for sanitary engineers in creating sustainable solutions for environmental conservation, reinforcing the importance of academic and community collaboration in achieving ecological resilience and sustainability. This is only the beginning, a promising start to a future filled with transformative projects that will shape a better, more sustainable world for future generations.



Group photo of PSSE USeP SC officers during the activity

SEMINAR ON RA 11313: EMPOWERING EDUCATORS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO CREATE SAFE SPACES

by: **Jeanette G. Pedriña**, College of Teacher
Education and Technology

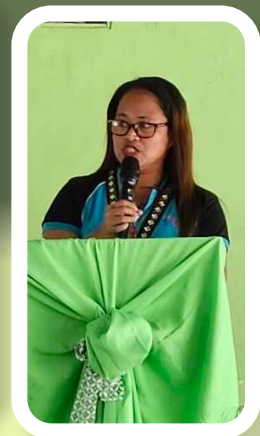
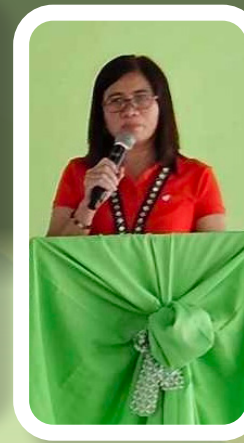
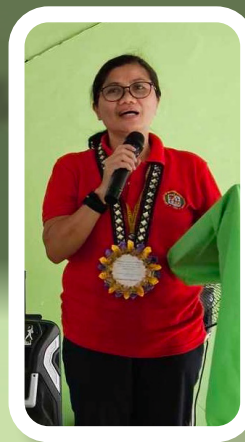
The seminar on RA 11313 for educators and stakeholders was a resounding success, effectively addressing critical needs identified through a Training Needs Analysis (TNA). This TNA was conducted by the 1st-year MEEM students of the Graduate School of Teacher Education and Technology (GSTET) as part of their MEEM 206: Human Resource Management course. The analysis highlighted a significant requirement for training on RA 11313, also known as the Safe Spaces Act, among the educators and stakeholders of Kinuban Elementary School.

Atty. Jesus A. Villardo, Jr., the esteemed resource person for the seminar, provided more than just a presentation on the legal aspects of RA 11313. His comprehensive approach fostered a deep awareness and understanding of the importance of creating safe spaces, thereby empowering participants to address issues of bullying and sexual harassment effectively.

Teachers and community stakeholders engaged in interactive sessions highlighting the importance of maintaining students' safe environments. These sessions were pivotal in demonstrating how unchecked bullying and sexual harassment can lead to the normalization of mistreatment and future abuse. By equipping the participants with practical tools and strategies, the seminar ensured they were better prepared to prevent such adverse outcomes, fostering a safer and more supportive school environment.

Participants left the seminar with a reinforced commitment to uphold the principles of the Safe Spaces Act, confident in their ability to implement effective measures to protect students and create a nurturing educational atmosphere. The success of this seminar underscores the importance of targeted training and the proactive involvement of all community members in promoting school safety.

However, despite the overall success of the seminar, several challenges were encountered, including the disparity in gender among the attendees, as there were noticeably fewer men there. This restricted the range of viewpoints and might have made it more challenging to have a thorough conversation about oversensitive subjects like bullying and sexual harassment. Furthermore, a few participants expressed their wish for a deeper investigation into particular matters, such as rape and its legal consequences.



Dr. Jeanette G. Pedriña delivers the activity's opening remarks, Dr. Vimalisi C. Mindaña gives the rationale, and the School Principal, Christe S. Lancian, welcomes the guests and participants.



MILESTONES FOR PROJECT LIFE

by: Mery Ann P. Labriga and Roby V. Pagong, LIFE Project 3

The Department of Science and Technology—Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)-funded Extension Program, Reintegration of IP Youth Farmer Evacuees (BAKWITS): Contributing to Peacebuilding in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, through the LIFE Model, is making significant progress. This initiative seeks to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for its partner communities in Talaingod.

DOST-PCAARRD visited the different program sites in Laak, Davao de Oro, and Talaingod, Davao del Norte. The visit aimed to monitor the progress of the projects and ensure that the activities are implemented effectively and efficiently. Since then, the project team has conducted several activities to achieve its goal of aiding positive transformations in the community.

Part of the activities were the courtesy visits conducted by the project team to the various stakeholders in Davao del Norte. This included the (1) Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), (2) Davao del Norte State College (DNSC), (3) Kapalong College of Agriculture Sciences & Technology (KCAST), (4) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Davao del Norte, (5) Local Government Unit Talaingod, Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), Davao del Norte, (6) Coconut Authority (PCA), Davao del Norte, (7) Barangay Sto. Niño, Talaingod, and the (8) Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Davao del Norte. The visit aimed to get the support of the different stakeholders in the project.

A significant milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University of Southeastern Philippines, TATAG IP Students Foundation Inc. (TIPSFI), and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). This partnership symbolizes the commitment of the different parties in implementing the project and working towards a common goal.

Another key activity conducted by the project is the Farm Cross-Visits. IP farmers visited two farms: 1) the Mindanao Baptist Rural Learning Center (MBRLC) and 2) Lao Integrated Farm, Inc. (LIFI) in Bansalan, Davao del Sur. These visits showcased diverse farming practices, including crop selection, planting methods, Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), soil conservation techniques, and livestock integration. By engaging in discussions and asking questions during the tours, the farmers were able to gain a deeper understanding of the various innovative farming practices, which will inspire them to adopt the methods for sustainable upland farming in their lands.

In addition, the project also conducted agroforestry farm planning, spearheaded by the faculty from the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS). This activity began with a reconnaissance survey of the 4.3-hectare area allotted for the project. The goal was to conduct a comprehensive site assessment, identify existing trees, vegetation, and wildlife, determine species needing protection, evaluate current site conditions, and develop a detailed farm plan. The CARS faculty also conducted an ocular visit to verify and finalize the design of a portable solar-powered irrigation system.

The activities conducted by the project team and the commitment of the partner participants are valuable steps taken to ensure that the project is successfully implemented and contributes to the improved quality of life of the community.



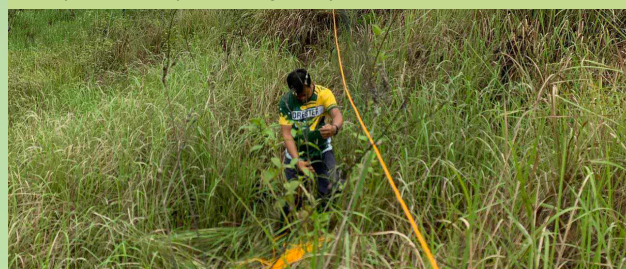
LIFE Project 3 Partner Farmers are introduced during the Farm Cross-Visits at MBRLC.



The LIFE Program team, together with DOST-PCAARRD's Ms. Yolanda Tanyag pose with the Project 3 partner farmers during the Monitoring Visit at PULL 2 sites.



LIFE Project 3 CARS faculty consultants present the design of a portable solar-powered irrigation system for the LIFE Demo Farm.



Dr. Edgar B. Solis, LIFE PROJECT 3 CARS Faculty, in action during the Agroforestry Farm Visit.



LIFE Project 3 team visits BFAR Davao del Norte.



The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) conducts the MOA signing with the TATAG IP Students Foundation, Inc. (TIPSFI), and the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)

CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

by: **Arnie A. Polistico**, *USEP Malabog Extension Campus*

On July 18, 2024, the University of Southeastern Philippines-Malabog Extension Campus (USEP-MEC) in Paquibato Proper, Paquibato, Davao City, organized a capability development extension activity focused on financial management for small business owners. This initiative aligned with the school's Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship academic program. It aimed to address a pressing concern identified through participatory consultation with the barangay council, which highlighted financial management as one of the primary problems that needed to be addressed.

The activity was spearheaded by the faculty and staff of USEP-MEC, which focused on equipping entrepreneurs with the necessary skills to manage their finances effectively, which is crucial for running a successful business. In addition, the activity's objectives were to enable small business owners to make informed business decisions, forecast future financial performance, identify potential issues, and plan accordingly. Through this activity, participants gained a deeper understanding of managing resources effectively and efficiently, enabling them to make informed decisions to help sustain their businesses.

During the activity, the resource speaker, Jevie M. Villa Abrille, CPA, MBA, shared valuable insights on financial management best practices, emphasizing the importance of budgeting, cash flow management, and financial reporting. He also provided practical tips and techniques on preparing financial statements, managing inventory, and making wise investment decisions.



Participants are awarded with their certificate of recognition in the extension activity.

The participants actively participated in discussions and activities designed to reinforce their understanding of financial management principles. Additionally, they were introduced to various financial management techniques to help them track their expenses, manage debt, and optimize their financial performance. They asked questions and shared their experiences and challenges related to these topics. The trainers provided insightful guidance and feedback, ensuring each participant received valuable knowledge and practical takeaways.

Moreover, this capability development activity was a collaborative effort between USEP-MEC and the local community. The barangay council played a crucial role in identifying the need for financial management training and providing a platform for knowledge sharing and networking among small business owners. The activity's success demonstrated the importance of partnerships between academic institutions and local stakeholders in addressing real-world issues affecting small businesses. The partnership serves as a model for future collaborative initiatives that address the community's needs and promote economic development.

Capability development activities are part of USEP's commitment to community outreach and extension services. By providing training and capacity-building activities, the university aims to empower small business owners in the area to grow their businesses and contribute to economic development.

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND BUILDING LEGAL CAPACITY: USEP-SOL LAW STUDENT PRACTITIONERS' IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

by: **Grecian T. Asoy, Mary Grace Ruben and Joana Rica P. Millama**, *School of Law*

In Mindanao, Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities are now taking charge of their future through improved legal education and advocacy. These communities are acquiring essential tools to tackle enduring challenges related to ancestral land, environmental protection, and gender equality through the initiative and support of the School of Law of the University of Southeastern Philippines. At the forefront of this significant transformation are USEP's Law Student Practitioners (LSPs), who, through the Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP) as outlined in Rule 138-A of the Rules of Court, are making significant strides in improving access to legal resources and justice among the partner communities. This shows how this contribution breaks down barriers and puts



The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) – School of Law partners with the Obu Monuvu MADADMA community to empower them through a unique extension program focusing on legal education, indigenous rights, and sustainable development.

the groundwork for enduring legal empowerment, enabling IP communities to assert their rights, confront injustices, and seek accountability in the long run.

IP Communities in Mindanao Take Charge of Their Future

The Mindanao IP Forum, dubbed as "Pamulong," held on July 30-31, 2024, in Davao City, was a significant event promoting Indigenous Peoples' (IP) rights and the rule of law, initiated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and facilitated by USeP's Law Student Practitioners (LSPs) as part of the ROLMIN project. Participants scrutinized several key issues, particularly House Bill 9608, highlighting the need for stronger IP representation in legislative matters. USeP's LSPs played a critical role in facilitating discussions, enhancing legal access for marginalized groups, and promoting peace and inclusiveness through the Clinical Legal Education Program to gain practical advocacy experience.

Building the MADADMA Dream: The Interplay of Intergenerational Empowerment

The partnership between USeP's School of Law and the Manobo Apao Descendants Ancestral Domain of Mt. Apo (MADADMA) focuses on intergenerational empowerment through legal education and sustainable development. Law Student Practitioners (LSPs) play a vital role in this program, which equips the MADADMA community to protect their ancestral land from environmental threats and corporate encroachments. The program further strengthens the community's leadership and self-reliance, as proven by MADADMA Chairman Datu Damaso Bayawan when he said, "Dako ang tabang ni USeP sa pagdugang sa among kahibalo - aron ang among mga future leaders, ang among mga kabatan-unan - sa among mga katungod para madepensahan ug maprotektahan ang among yutang kabilin". Datu Damaso expressed

how this collaboration fosters cultural preservation while offering LSPs valuable experience working with them, ensuring the MADADMA dream is sustained for future generations.

Successful GOJUST monitoring visit: USeP School of Law obtains astounding results in the CSPP-KSA-ECR Project

The USeP School of Law's Conflict Sensitive and Peace Promoting Knowledge, Skills, and Attitude for Environmental Conflict Resolution, or CSPP-KSA-ECR Project, supported by the EU's GOJUST II, achieved a notable 82% project progress rate in empowering marginalized communities. Law Student Practitioners (LSPs), trained under the Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP), played a key role in enhancing access to environmental justice through the establishment of Environmental Paralegal Aid Desks (EPLADs). During the monitoring visit from August 5 to 8, partner communities in Davao City and Kidapawan highlighted how USeP-Sol's training deepened their understanding of environmental and ancestral domain laws. The visit concluded positively, highlighting the transformative impact of LSPs in advancing environmental justice and promoting conflict-sensitive approaches to lawyering.



A team from the Justice Sector Reform Program: Governance in Justice (GOJUST) II, funded by the European Union (EU), conducts a simultaneous monitoring visit in some partner communities—particularly Barangay 10-A in Davao City and Barangay Ilomavis in Kidapawan.

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY EMPOWERS COMMUNITY WITH DOMRAC SERVICING TRAINING UNDER KIBLAONE CT-UPGRADE EXTENSION PROGRAM

by: Jeriel D. Mugas and Joseph G. Villarmino, College of Technology



Women Empowerment: Two female participants check the electrical components of an air conditioning unit during the DomRAC Troubleshooting and Repair activity.

The College of Technology, through its Extension Office in partnership with Molopolo National High School, is steadfast in enhancing technical skills and nurturing human capital in local communities. The Kiblawan Comprehensive Training in Upskilling the Grassroots for Responsive and Adaptive Development (KiblaONE CT-UpGRADE) extension program was initiated in line with this mission. This program aims to provide pertinent training opportunities tailored to meet the dynamic demands of the workforce. Domestic Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (DomRAC) Servicing Training is among its five pivotal initiatives.

Conducted between April 19-20, 27, May 04, 18, 25, and June 1, 2024, at Molopolo National High School in Molopolo, Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, the DomRAC Servicing training equipped participants with essential competencies in maintaining and servicing domestic refrigeration

and air conditioning systems. Enthusiastic engagement was observed from TVL graduates, educators, non-teaching staff of Molopolo National High School, and local community members.

The College of Technology plans to broaden its extension programs under the KiblaONE CT-UpGRADe initiative. Future sessions will concentrate on pertinent technical skills that cater to the needs of individuals and local industries. Collaborative efforts with educational institutions and community organizations aim to expand outreach and amplify program impact. Furthermore, the college explores incorporating advanced subjects and emerging technologies in upcoming training modules to equip participants with skills essential for the contemporary workforce. Continuous refinement of programs based on participant feedback underscores responsiveness to community needs.

The successful execution of the DomRAC Servicing training owes much to the collaborative endeavors of key contributors. Mr. Joseph G. Villarmino, overseeing the Extension Office, was pivotal in orchestrating the program's logistics and administration. The dedicated extensionists—Dr. Alma Mae G. Salinas, Prof. Jayson T. Sasotil, Prof. Jocelyn B. Dofitas, and Mr. Jeriel D. Mugas provided invaluable expertise and support throughout the training, ensuring its effectiveness. Through their expertise, the training sessions offered practical, hands-on experiences and technical knowledge crucial for ensuring the efficiency and longevity of refrigeration and air conditioning appliances.

Molopolo National High School's pivotal role as the training venue and its facilitation of participation by educators, non-teaching staff, and local community members significantly contributed to creating an optimal learning environment and ensuring program success.

This extension activity epitomizes the College of Technology's dedication to community development and workforce empowerment. It further reinforces its commitment to forging a more adaptable and responsive future, locally and beyond, by equipping individuals with indispensable technical proficiencies.



Participants clean an air conditioning unit during the DomRAC servicing and maintenance activity.



DomRAC Training Participants (front) show their output during the heat load calculation for an air conditioning unit installation together with their trainers-extensionists (back): Mr. Jeriel D. Mugas, Prof. Jocelyn B. Dofitas, Dr. Alma Mae G. Salinas, Prof. Jayson T. Sasotil and Mr. Joseph G. Villarmino.

USEP SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND TAGUM MEDICAL CITY JOIN FORCES FOR COMMUNITY WELLNESS, LAUNCH 'OPLAN TULI' INITIATIVE

by: Marites L. Domingo, School of Medicine

Pre-consultation (Screening) is conducted at Tagum Medical City

Dr. Manuel Gerard Sevilla explains the process of circumcision to the volunteer students.

Tagum City, June 6, 2024 — In a remarkable display of community service and collaboration, 90 young boys received free circumcision during the "Oplan Tuli 2024" event at Tagum Medical City. The event was spearheaded by Dr. Marites L. Domingo, the Extension Head of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) School of Medicine, in partnership with Tagum Medical City.

The OPLAN TULI program was crafted to provide circumcision services to young boys from various barangays, with a particular focus on those from underprivileged backgrounds who might otherwise lack access to such medical care. The event promotes health and hygiene among young boys and has become a highly anticipated occasion within the local community. In the Philippines, circumcision holds significant cultural importance and is often regarded as a rite of passage for boys. This program ensured that those in need could undergo the procedure in a safe, professional environment, upholding tradition and community health.

The day started with a smooth registration and consultation process, ensuring participants were

well-informed and comfortable before any procedures began. Dr. Marites L. Domingo, known for her dedication to community health, led the event with the help of a committed team from Tagum Medical City. Their involvement was essential for providing top-notch care and keeping everything on track.

The enthusiastic volunteer students from the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) School of Medicine further boosted the event's success. Their contributions went beyond just logistical support and patient care; they also provided them with invaluable hands-on experience. These future medical professionals were commended for their commitment and professionalism throughout the day.

Each participant received a post-care kit to ensure the children's recovery after the procedure. These kits included essential items like gauze bandages, pain relievers, and wound care instructions, helping the children heal comfortably at home and ensuring a smooth and safe recovery process.

Parents who attended the event voiced their appreciation for the initiative, noting the importance of circumcision in their children's lives. Many highlighted the financial and emotional relief brought about by the free service.

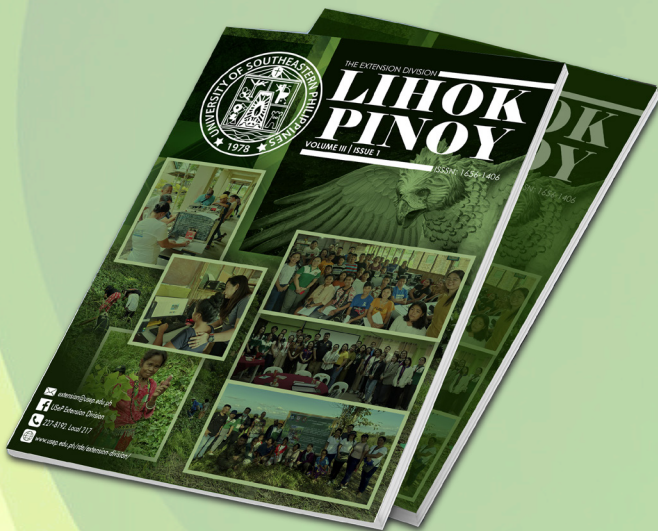
"Oplan Tuli 2024" stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in enhancing community health and bridging the gap between medical institutions and the communities they serve. The event left a positive impact on the lives of 90 young boys and their families, reinforcing the importance of accessible healthcare in the region.

Volunteer students from USEP School of Medicine assist doctors performing circumcision procedure.



Dr. Marites L. Domingo facilitates the activity together with the volunteer students from the USEP School of Medicine.

THE CONTRIBUTORS



L IHOK PINOY is a vibrant publication showcasing the University of Southeastern Philippines' extension activities across its divisions, colleges, schools, and campuses. More than just an informational resource, it seeks to inspire hope and encourage action among readers.

Each issue of the Extension Division's publication highlights various initiatives addressing social, environmental, and educational challenges. By sharing stories and milestones, **LIHOK PINOY** motivates readers to engage and contribute to positive change in their communities.

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